

NAVAL REINFORCEMENTS.

THE BARFLEUR AT COLOMBO.

(Special Telegram from Our Own Correspondent.)

SINGAPORE, March 1, 3:10 p.m.

The German cruiser *Barfleur* and the Italian cruiser *Muro* arrived at Colombo yesterday (Monday) on their way to Hongkong.The Russian battleships *Narvik* and *Sessil* arrived at Singapore from Penang this morning.The British battleship *Barfleur* and the Italian cruiser *Muro* arrived at Colombo yesterday (Monday) on their way to Hongkong.The British battleship *Barfleur* and the Italian cruiser *Muro* arrived at Colombo yesterday (Monday) on their way to Hongkong.The British battleship *Barfleur* and the Italian cruiser *Muro* arrived at Colombo yesterday (Monday) on their way to Hongkong.The British battleship *Barfleur* and the Italian cruiser *Muro* arrived at Colombo yesterday (Monday) on their way to Hongkong.The British battleship *Barfleur* and the Italian cruiser *Muro* arrived at Colombo yesterday (Monday) on their way to Hongkong.The British battleship *Barfleur* and the Italian cruiser *Muro* arrived at Colombo yesterday (Monday) on their way to Hongkong.The British 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RINDERPEST AT THE DAIRY FARM.

SANITARY BOARD PRECAUTIONS.

A special meeting of the Sanitary Board was held this morning, to consider the steps to be taken with regard to an outbreak of rinderpest amongst the stock of the Dairy Farm Company. Dr. J. M. Atkinson presided. The other members present were—Hon. R. D. Ormsby, Mr. M. J. Ede, Dr. F. Clark, and Mr. H. McCallum (Secretary), and Mr. C. Vivian Ladd (Colonial Veterinary Surgeon).

The Chairman—We are called together to consider an outbreak of rinderpest at Saxon's Villa, Pokfulam—a recommendation made by the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon. I ask the Secretary to read the letter.

The Secretary read the following letter:—

Government Office, 21/2/98.

Sir—I have the honour to report to you the information of the Board that rinderpest has broken out amongst the cattle at Saxon's Villa, Pokfulam, the property of the Dairy Farm Company.

The sick animals have been carefully isolated from the healthy animals and strict measures for effective disinfection taken.

No danger to the public supply and no apprehension as to the spread of the disease amongst the cattle at the entrance to the farm to prevent the removal of the animals, and to carry out any other instructions which I might receive.

I think these precautions will suffice for the present. I have the honour to be, etc.

C. VIVIAN LADD.

The Secretary—That was all. I have circulated to members for approval of the recommendations made, and they have been carried out. The letter that came in yesterday is in circulation.

The Chairman—It is evident that these animals are suffering from a dangerously infectious disease, and in accordance with Section 1 of the bye laws for dealing with cattle disease, if it appears to the Sanitary Board that an animal placed in segregation is suffering from a dangerously infectious disease, it shall cause such animal to be forthwith slaughtered, and the carcass thereof disposed of.

The Sanitary Board that any animal has been in contact with or in the same herd with animals suffering from disease, it may at its discretion cause such animal to be slaughtered, and the carcass thereof shall be disposed of in such manner as the Board may deem fit. Mr. Ladd recommends that these animals be slaughtered. It is not a question of one or two animals; it is a question of nine. He also recommends that the owners be compensated for the loss of their cattle. If you turn to Ordinance 17 of 1897, Section 3, it states:—

"The Governor in Council shall direct that out of the public revenue of the Colony compensation shall be paid as follows for any animals slaughtered under provisions of this Ordinance:—(2) when an animal has shown symptoms of disease after being fourteen days in the Colony, one-half of its value immediately before it became affected will be given; (3) when an animal has shown no symptoms of disease but has been in contact with or in the same herd with diseased cattle, compensation shall be given." So that we have power to recommend the Government to grant this compensation. I think I am correct in saying that in the former outbreak of this disease the animals were allowed to die, they were not slaughtered, and the Government was not asked to pay compensation. The only question is whether the Board thinks it advisable to slaughter and compensate or to allow the animals to die, and follow the natural course of the disease and die.

The Secretary read the second letter:—

Government Office, 28/2/98.

Sir—Adverting to my letter of 21/2/98, reporting the outbreak of rinderpest at Saxon's Villa, Pokfulam, I now have the honour to advise, that as all the precautions which have been taken to prevent the spread of the disease have proved useless, the Board now order the slaughter of the remaining nine European-bred cattle at the Dairy Farm, and that compensation to the amount of £1800 be paid for them, under provisions of Sections 2 and 3 of Ordinance 17 of 1897, and the bye-laws made thereunder.

There would yet remain sixteen native-bred cattle upon the farm, but I do not advise their slaughter at present, having reason to believe that they will not contract the disease. I have the honour to be, etc.

C. VIVIAN LADD.

The Chairman—I asked Mr. Ladd to advise, so that he may answer any question you may think necessary.

Dr. Clark—Are these nine already diseased?

Mr. Ladd—Three of them are; the other six are all right.

The Chairman—You suggest that the other six should be slaughtered.

Mr. Ladd—Yes.

Dr. Clark—Are the other healthy ones to be slaughtered?

Mr. Ladd—No.

Mr. Ede—How would Mr. Ladd advise at the valuation? As far as I can see here in Section 3, the animals must be over fourteen days in the Colony.

The Chairman—How long have they been in the Colony?

Mr. Ladd—Months; some of them years.

The Chairman—The question before the Board is that we recommend these animals to be slaughtered, or whether they should simply be segregated as before, similar to the means adopted in the outbreak of 1896.

Personally, I do not see the object of killing these healthy cattle simply because they may have been in contact with diseased cattle.

Mr. Ede—Why is it necessary?

Mr. Ladd—Because we have been isolating them, and the disease still spreads.

Mr. Ede—And the disease will spread to the native cattle as well?

Mr. Ladd—No, I do not think so.

The Chairman—Our experience in 1896 was that we could isolate the cattle, because before the outbreak we had not taken any precautions. There are only those nine which are not native cattle.

Mr. Ladd—Yes.

Dr. Clark—How many have died already?

Mr. Ladd—I should think eight or ten.

The Chairman—It is evidently a very infectious disease, remember it spread like wildfire before. Even if we kill these nine, I do not think it will stop the disease.

Mr. Ede—Mr. Ladd thinks it will. I should say the proper course is to order the slaughter of the diseased animals, and if the rest show symptoms of disease the same should be slaughtered also. I do not think you should allow animals that have been in contact with diseased animals to remain on the farm.

The Chairman—The others have been exposed to the infection, although they may not be showing it.

Dr. Clark—We could not slaughter them before the outbreak, but now that there is any danger, there are only those nine which are not native cattle.

Mr. Ladd—Yes.

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 EMPRESS OF INDIA.....Comdr. H. PYDYS. R.N.R..... WEDNESDAY, 6th April '98.
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Hongkong, February 21, 1898.

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Olympia.....	2608	T. H. Dobson.....	Mar. 8	Bromar.....	3601	E. Porter.....	Mar. 16
Columbia.....	2681	A. Gow.....	April 6	Mogul.....	3354	H. W. Wright.....	Mar. 29
Columbia.....	2644	A. Dixon.....	April 26	Argyll.....	2907	W. Ward.....	May 3
Victoria.....	3167	J. Truebridge.....	May 17				

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Hongkong, February 23, 1898. 392

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PROJECTED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG—SUBJECT TO ALTERATION.

Steamers.	Destinations.	Sailing Dates.
YAKASA MARU, <i>J. B. MacGILLAN,</i> FAMAGUCHI MARU, <i>S. UCHIDA</i>	YOKOHAMA, KOBE and MOGI. KOBE and YOKOHAMA	SATURDAY, 13th <i>Mat., at 6 p.m.</i> THURSDAY, 17th

OSCAR MARU, C. BULO AT,	MARSEILLES, LONDON and ANTWERP, Via SINGAPORE, (Transshipping Cargo for JAPA PORTS) PENANG, COLOMBO & PORT SAID.	FRIDAY, 18th March, at 4 p.m.
DZUMI MARU, R. NUSOME,	B O M B A Y, Via SINGAPORE (Transshipping Cargo for JAPA PORTS) and COLOMBO.	TUESDAY, 22nd Mar., at Noon.
ANAGAWA MARU, J. MACKENZIE,	KOBE and YOKOHAMA.	WEDNESDAY, 23rd March, at 4 p.m.
ROJOUN MARU, A. E. MORSE,	SEATTLE, Wash., U.S.A., Via KOBE & YOKOHAMA.	THURSDAY, 24th March, at 4 p.m.
OKIO MARU, E. W. HASWELL,	SYDNEY and MELBOURNE, Via THESDALE ISLAND, TOWNSVILLE and BRISBANE.	FRIDAY, 1st April, at 4 p.m.

* Through Passenger Tickets and Bills of Lading issued for the Principal Cities in the United States, Canada and Europe in connection with the GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY and ATLANTIC STEAMERS.

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Hongkong, March 1, 1898.

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A. S. MIHARA, Manager.

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